

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01

MC-02 /066 W

----- 018998

R 080351Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3020

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 25049

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TH, SRV, LA, US

SUBJECT: U.S. WAR EQUIPMENT FROM VIETNAM

1. VOICE OF THE NATION CARRIED FRONT PAGE HEADLINE
SEPT 6 QUOTE U.S. HAS TAKEN ALL WAR HARDWARE UNQUOTE.
STORY ATTRIBUTED STATEMENT BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ROYAL
THAI AIR FORCE, AIR MARSHAL KAMON, TO THE EFFECT THAT ALL
U.S. EQUIPMENT BROUGHT INTO THAILAND FROM VIETNAM, LAOS
AND CAMBODIA HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT BY THE UNITED STATES.

2. ON SEPT 7, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEK NANA ANSWERED
REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AS FOLLOWS:
REPORTER: AIR CHIEF MARSHAL KAMON DECHATUNGKHA GAVE A
NEWS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE STATED THAT THERE ARE NO
VIETNAMESE PLANES IN THAILAND, PLANES ON WHICH THERE IS A
DISPUTE WHETHER THEY BELONG TO VIETNAM OR TO AMERICA. HE
MADE THAT STATEMENT DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE FORMER
GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SAY CONTINUALLY
THAT THERE ARE SUCH PLANES IN THAILAND. HAVE YOU SEEN
ANY OF THOSE PLANES HERE? LEK: I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY
OF THEM. REPORTER: SHOULD VIETNAM STATE THAT THOSE
PLANES BELONG TO IT, AND ... DEMAND THEY BE RETURNED,
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WHERE COULD THEY BE FOUND TO TURN OVER ...?

REPORTER: SHOULD VIETNAM REQUEST THAT THOSE PLANES BE
TURNED OVER ..., ARE THEY REALLY HERE? LEK: THAT
CONCERNS THE MILITARY, AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THOSE
PLANES ARE REALLY HERE OR NOT. IT MEANS THAT SHOULD
VIETNAM WISH TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS THEY WILL BE HELD.
BUT YOUR QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE ANY PLANES
IN QUESTION HERE MUST BE PUT TO THE MILITARY.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT PRECIPITATED KAMON'S
STATEMENT OR, FURTHER, WHAT MOTIVATED HIM TO TAKE THE
PARTICULAR POSITION HE DID. HE CERTAINLY KNOWS THE
FACTS OF THE MATTER. IN ANY CASE, EMBASSY HAS ASSUMED
NO COMMENT POSITION ON MATTER AND RESPONDED IN THAT
MANNER TO UPI AND AP (ONLY INQUIRIES SO FAR). AP
SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED EMBASSY AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS HAD NO COMMENT ON KAMON'S STATEMENT.
BURKE

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NNN

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